



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

May 30, 2017

The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell
Chair, Budget Conference Committee
Committee
California State Senate
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phillip Ting
Co-Chair, Budget Conference

California State Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: In-Person Jail Visitation – **OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Mitchel and Assemblyman Ting:

On behalf of the County of San Bernardino, I write to respectfully notify you of our opposition to the proposal that would make changes to jail visitation requirements in county detention facilities. We understand this issue is not scheduled to be heard in conference, however we wanted to express our concerns.

The proposal adopted by both budget committees would require a county that is providing video visitation to also provide in-person visitation. This proposal exempts eight facilities for five years. However, those facilities are required to comply within 5 years with the in-person visitation requirement. Limited funding has been identified to retrofit existing jail and is contingent upon jail construction funding being relinquished to the Board of State and Community Corrections by other counties.

While we are not opposed to providing in-person visitation, there are significant implementation and fiscal concerns with the proposal. San Bernardino County's High Desert Detention Center was designed and constructed to use video visitation exclusively. Accommodating in-person visitation would require major reconstruction that would cost in the tens of millions of dollars. It would also require an increase in staffing – at significant cost to taxpayers – to facilitate inmate movements and to monitor the visitation for the safety of visitors, staff and inmates.

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For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino respectfully opposes the changes to jail visitation requirements in county detention facilities. If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Lovingood", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Robert Lovingood
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: Members and Consultants, Budget Conference Committee
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation